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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Logistics  
ATTENTION: Chief, Plans Staff, OL  
SUBJECT: Advanced Planning for Task Force Training Exercise

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1. In response to the Deputy Director (Plans) desire to improve the Clandestine Services' capabilities to cope with contingency situations envisioned in the [redacted] concept, in March 1960, an effort was initiated to develop a war gaming exercise to familiarize CIA Contingency Force personnel with the nature and intensity of a task force operation involving paramilitary action. The Office of Logistics was invited to participate in the planning and conduct of this operational training.

2. While it was generally agreed that the broad objectives of this unique approach to training were satisfactorily attained, the effort left much to be desired in terms of contributing to our experience thereby serving to improve our doctrinal concepts. It was intended at the outset that this training not only serve the purposes of the training objectives but that it also provide the forum as well as the form of testing or checking out new methods, weapons, devices, equipment and other factors. These corollary objectives, while levied on the planners, were not adequately developed in either the instructional or the field exercise portion of the training program due to the time factor involved. In retrospect, it now appears that if we are to progress beyond the Korea and [REDACTED] ways and means of conducting [REDACTED] operations, we must exploit more fully our opportunities for experimenting and testing of newer and, hopefully, better ways of executing such missions.

3. In addition to the carefully prepared critique by your office, the [REDACTED] Covert Action Staff, prepared a general critique of "Operation [REDACTED]". Based upon these studies a recommendation was made to the Deputy Director (Plans) that this kind of training be conducted on an annual basis. This recommendation was approved in principle and forwarded to the Director of Training. Specifically, the recommendation called for the establishment of a "task force training plans committee" to be convened in November 1960 to prepare plans for an exercise about

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May 1961. It was contemplated that the respective plans officers of the concerned Support Services would be represented on this committee and that the experience gained in "Operation [REDACTED]" would be noted.

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4. In anticipation that the Office of Logistics in its planning, training and development programs, is fully aware of the need for improvement and shares the desire to engage in experimental or exploratory efforts designed to enhance the Agency's capabilities to conduct [REDACTED] X4 operations, it is suggested that "Operation [REDACTED]" be re-examined in preparation of the planning to be undertaken for the next exercise. In this connection, perhaps the following points could be considered:

a. Logistical support of the exercise

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Inasmuch as "Operation [REDACTED]" constituted the initial effort of the Agency to engage in field gaming a task force operational plan it was not clear in the planning phase if the Office of Training should handle the logistical problems as in a normal training exercise or whether the Office of Logistics should handle them as in an actual operation. Though Logistics agreed to establish the requirements and initially considered fulfilling them, there were neither time nor funds adequate to do so and the Office of Training was called upon to provide the required support.

Based upon this experience and the fact that adequate time should be available for the next exercise, it would appear to be worthwhile if Logistics would assume the entire task of both planning and handling the logistical support as it would in an actual operation. Obviously, this would involve negotiating with OTR for certain services and possibly the military services for other support items not readily available in CIA stocks. How this would be done in relationship to the responsibilities of the Director of Training would be resolved through joint study and resolution. It is the view of the [REDACTED] A8a

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[REDACTED] that more realism and practical advantage would be obtained if these training exercises could assume the characteristics of an actual operation.

b. A task force "fly-away" kit

One of the lessons believed to have emerged from the [REDACTED] operation was the advantage of having in readiness all the paraphernalia normally required by a field base of operations, either for a tropical or temperate zone. This

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point was clearly illustrated when the planners tried to determine all the many items that might be needed and then attempted to find them. Simple items such as lanterns, field desks, portable typewriters, map mileage measurers, etc., were not readily available within several weeks time. It is believed that Logistics now knows the kinds of things which a field base would probably need. It might be well to establish one or two kits which would be complete and expendable to accommodate from 15 to 30 operational personnel in the field for periods of 30 to 60 days. Beyond 60 days it would be assumed that all items could be procured and supplied as needed. If this capability could be developed in time it could be tested for adequacy in the next field exercise.

c. Tentage

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While the subject of tentage was very debatable during the planning of "██████████" it did serve to focus attention on our capability to provide such accommodations in event a situation developed which would necessitate the use of them. While

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civilian-type van or house trailer that would be air transportable and could be used for operations and living quarters. Again, consideration would have to be given to tropical conditions.

d. Support of operations

Another suggestion developed from the initial field exercise was the matter of instruction in the use of "██████████". It was proposed that the Logistical presentations during the instructional period be directed specifically to the logistical support of the specific operational plan of the FTX. Also, the "██████████" packs to be used should be shown and demonstrated in detail. The students should acquire intimate knowledge of the weapons involved, how they are packed and how they are to be employed prior to engaging in the actual field exercise.

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5. While it will be the responsibility of the "task force training plans committee" to determine the scope and nature of the next exercise, it is believed worthwhile to provide these comments at this time in order to facilitate advance preparations for participation in the planning. We feel, as we are certain that you do, that the more knowledgeable you are on the needs of the Clandestine Services the better you will be able to

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anticipate them. Owing to your excellent cooperation on "Operation [REDACTED], we feel free to forward these views and look ahead to participation with you in developing an effective and, perhaps, valuable field exercise for 1961.

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6. The [REDACTED], Covert Action Staff, will be pleased to confer with your office on the foregoing at your convenience. Mr. Albert [REDACTED] Room 2405 "K" Bldg., extension 4611, has been assigned specific staff responsibility on this subject.

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